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SECRET 250452Z JAN 72 CITE SAIGON 43689

DIRECTOR

RYBA: _____

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1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM

_____ TO MR. CARVER FOR THE SULLIVAN COMMITTEE:

QUOTE (A) I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST YOUR WORKING PAPER AND AFTER FURTHER STUDY WE WILL BE DEVELOPING A MISSION POSITION ON THE POINTS YOU RAISE. IN THE MEANTIME PLEASE CONSIDER THIS AN INFORMAL INTERIM REPLY. REGARDING THE DISCUSSION PART OF THE PAPER WE AGREE WITH MOST POINTS. HOWEVER, IN CERTAIN IMPORTANT ASPECTS THE PAPER HAS INEVITABLY BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. WHEN YOUR PAPER WAS WRITTEN, OF COURSE, YOU DID NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE REPORT REGARDING OUR 27 DECEMBER MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

(B) AS YOU KNOW IDEN A WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF 7 FEB. ALSO IDEN B WILL HAVE RETURNED FROM HIS TDY IN VIETNAM. I SUGGEST YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PRESENCE TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT

SECRET

Phoenix

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GVN PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT DECISIONS AND GENERALLY TO DISCUSS PHUNG HOANG. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, AS IDENS A AND B WILL EXPLAIN IN MORE DETAIL, THAT EVERY PROPOSAL WE HAVE MADE TO THE GVN ABOUT PHUNG HOANG HAS BEEN MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE TOTAL ANTI-VCI EFFORT AND CERTAINLY NOT AS THE PAPER SEEMS TO IMPLY TO RATIONALIZE AN EARLY CURTAILMENT OF THE ADVISORY STRUCTURE.

(C) REFERENCE YOUR CONCLUSIONS, WE DO PLAN TO MAINTAIN A REDUCED ADVISORY EFFORT AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND IN SELECTED CASES PROVINCIAL LEVELS THROUGH CY 72.

A SURVEY OF ANTI-VCI TRAINING AS YOU SUGGESTED WAS PLANNED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF YOUR WORKING PAPER AND IS IN PROGRESS.

YOUR FINAL RECOMMENDATION AS TO AN IDEAL IN-COUNTRY ADVISORY EFFORT IS NOT SO EASY TO COPE WITH CONSIDERING THE ACCELERATED PERSONNEL DRAWN-DOWN NOW IN PROGRESS. HERE AGAIN I HOPE YOU WILL CONSULT WITH IDEN A, WHO WILL REPORT TO ME UPON HIS RETURN TO SAIGON. UNQUOTE. GP-1

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